Raising the age limit for Government service

*6. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to raise the age limit for Government service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Age limits for appointment to various posts have been laid down keeping in view the nature of duties and the requirements of educational qualification and experience. There is no proposal to raise the age limit for entry in Government Service.

Determination of sex of the foetus

*7. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by determining the sex of the foetus, foeticides is on the increase in the country; and

(b) whether some women organisations are demanding the abolition of sex determination of the foetus and if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The Government is aware of the reports of the misuse of sex determination tests leading to foeticide. However, it is not possible to state the extent of incidence of foeticide after sex determination tests, as no such information is available.

(b) Different organisations have demanded abolition of sex determination tests. The Government of India is of the view that a Central Act may be essential to regulate the use of sex determination tests.

Seminar on land reforms by the Planning Commission

*8. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on land reforms was convened by the Planning Commission in New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, what were the details of the issues discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

Statement

A Seminar on Land Reforms was held in the Planning Commission on 7th and 8th June, 1989.

The Seminar reviewed the statues of land reforms in a historical perspective. It focussed on policies related to tenancy, ceiling, redistribution of land, maintenance of land records, consolidation of holdings and protection of the interests of weaker sections.

The consensus at the seminar was that the economic case for land reforms was still strong and had to be pursued as a deliberate

policy for achieving both a higher level of production and income as well as better distributive justice.

It was noted that despite the ban on tenancy and absentee landlordism, cultivation by leasing lands continued flourish under concealed and informal tenancy arrangements in several places. Detection of oral and informal tenents was therefore a major challange. It was felt that a strict definition of 'Personal cultivation' should also be implemented so as to bring all the oral and informal tenants on record, and prevent circumvention of the land reform policy.

On the issue of land ceilings, there was a general agreement that the existing ceiling limits as approved in the national guidelines of 1972, should be strictly enforced in all the States. Exemptions in general including those relating to educational and charitable institutions should be done away with.

The situation with regard to the present condition of land records was recognised as requiring urgent attention in view of the growing and prolonged litigation. It was recommended that a major plan scheme to be taken up for updating the land record and strengthening the revenue machinery.

Fire in Central Ordnance depot at Pulgaon

*9. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major fire broke out at the Central Ordnance Depot in Pulgaon, recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the causes of the fire ;

(c) what is the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof ; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A fire broke out in the Central Ammunition Depot at Pulgaon on 9th May, 1989.

(b) to (d) The fire caused damage to ammunition, a few railway wagons, and a venicle. The preliminary investigation conducted by the Army and the CBI indicates that the fire was caused accidentally. The initial estimate of loss is approximately Rs. 31·5 crores. A court of Inquiry has been ordered by the Army Headquarters. Army HQrs have been directed to take adequate preventive measures to ensure that such accidents do not recur and take suitable action against those found to be at fault.

डा० चोईथराम गिडवानी के सम्मान में स्मारक डाक टिकट का जारी किया जाना

*10. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को महान स्वतंत्रता सेनानी तथा देशभक्त स्वर्गीय डा० चोईथराम गिडवानी के सम्मान में, जिनका जन्म 25 दिसम्बर, 1889 को हैदराबाद (सिंध) में हुआ था और जिनकी जन्म शताब्दी मनाई जा रही है, स्मारक डाक-टिकट जारी करने का कोई सुझाव प्राप्त हुआ है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस संबंध में क्या प्रतिक्रिया है तथा उक्त डाक-टिकट के कब तक जारी कर दिये जाने की संभावना है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गोमांगो) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) इस प्रस्ताव को स्मारक/विशेष डाक-टिकट जारी करने तथा इससे सम्बद्ध